

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 19 and 20-24 have been amended; and claims 25-46 have been newly inserted. Accordingly, claims 1-46 as set forth herein are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,820,462 to Yokoi et al. ("Yokoi"). In addition, claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) as obvious over Yokoi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,897,437 to Nishiumi et al. ("Nishiumi"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Yokoi is directed to an operating device for a game machine having a plurality of operating units or switches for controlling the game. The first and second operating units each includes a cross key top having four pressing pads for instructing four directions (col. 3, lines 30-47). The operating device further includes a plurality of buttons 18A-C for providing instructions on three actions, and 19A-B for starting the game and selecting the game to be played (col. 4, lines 25-30). Buttons 18A-C and 19A-B are simply push buttons, and are unable to provide variable input.

In contrast, claims 1-24 as amended herein all require the fourth operating unit to have a rotation member and an input element operable to generate a signal in response to an operation of the rotation member. Through the use of a rotation member, applicant's operating device is able to input a command signal for enabling analog movements such as combined rotation and linear movement, linear movement with a variable speed or change the configuration of the display character by rotational operation of the rotation member. Accordingly, applicant's

operation device is able to achieve various types of inputs which cannot be achieved with the device of Yokoi.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18-24 patentably distinguish over Yokoi such as to warrant their immediate allowance.

Furthermore *Nishiumi* fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yokoi. In that regard, while *Nishiumi* discloses a joystick 45 capable of analog input (col. 5, lines 40-42), such joystick is not in the positions required by the claims herein. Moreover, since joystick 45 performs different operations from buttons 18A-C of Yokoi, it would not be obvious to replace such buttons with the joystick of *Nishiumi*. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 patentably distinguish over both Yokoi and *Nishiumi*, either alone or in the combination thereof suggested by the Examiner.

Newly introduced claims 25-42 include the requirement for a vibration-imparting unit arranged in each of the first and second grips. Yokoi does not teach the use of vibration-imparting elements. While *Nishiumi* discloses a vibration-imparting element, the element is contained in a controller pack 50 which is detachably connected to the underside of the operating device in a central region thereof (col. 9, lines 48-67 and Fig. 8). Hence, any vibrations generated by vibration source 507 must be transferred from the controller pack 50 to the operating device itself, and then from a central region of the operating device to the grips thereof. As a result, differences in the degrees of vibration imparted by the vibration-imparting element will be attenuated before reaching the grips, and therefore will not be appreciated by the user.

In contrast, the present invention requires vibration-imparting units in each of the first and second grips. Support for this limitation can be found in the present application at

page 23, paragraphs [0089] - [0091]. By placing the vibration-imparting units in each of the grips, vibrations of various intensities can be imparted directly to the hands of the user. Moreover, the vibrations in one grip can be different from the vibrations in the other grip, thereby creating a unique effect for the user. Nowhere does either *Yokoi* or *Nishiumi* teach the provision of vibration-imparting units in each of the grips of the operating device. Accordingly, applicant submits that newly inserted claims 25-42 patentably distinguish over *Yokoi* and *Nishiumi* such as to warrant their immediate allowance.

Newly inserted claims 43 and 44 require the first and second grips to project from the main body in a first direction, with the third and fourth operating units projecting from the main body in the first direction between the first and second grips. Support for this limitation can be found in Fig. 2 which shows the operating units 16 projecting from the same side of the main body of the operating device as the grips. In contrast, the operating units in *Yokoi* and *Nishiumi* are all positioned on the top surface of the main body, and none of the operating units project from the main body in the same direction as the grips. Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 43 and 44 patentably distinguish over both *Yokoi* and *Nishiumi* and any combination thereof.

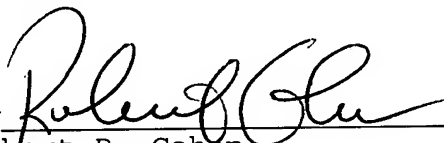
Finally, newly inserted claims 45 and 46 require the grips and main body to collectively define a U-shape in a plane when viewed from a direction normal to the plane, with the third and fourth operating units projecting from the main body within the U-shape when viewed in the direction normal to the plane. Support for this limitation can also be found in Fig. 2 as described above. As neither *Yokoi* nor *Nishiumi* disclose operating units positioned in this fashion, applicant submits that claims 45 and 46 patentably distinguish over these references.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Robert B. Cohen
Registration No.: 32,768
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

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